

Message Text

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SCI-06 OMB-01 H-03 AID-20 SS-20 EB-11 AGR-20 SSO-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: OPIUM PRODUCTION IN TURKEY

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, DATED
MARCH 18, 1974 (HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL): BEGIN QUOTE

MR. RANGEL. MR. SPEAKER, CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND I
HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A 4-DAY TRIP TO TURKEY WHERE WE
DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF OPIUM POPPY PRODUC-
TION WITH HIGH TURKISH OFFICIALS. IN OUR MEETINGS WITH
THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, WE EX-
PRESSED OUR DEEPEST CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL DEADLY EF-
FECTS IF TURKEY ONCE AGAIN PERMITS OPIUM CULTIVATION.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BAN, IN FULL EFFECT SINCE MID-1972,
HAS REDUCED BOTH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF HEROIN
AVAILABLE ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA. IN EXCHANGE FOR THE
BAN, THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO PAY 35.7 MILLION DOLS. TO
COMPENSATE THE TURKISH FARMERS AND TO ENCOURAGE CROP
SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS. TRAGICALLY, MUCH OF THAT MONEY HAS
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NOT BEEN TURNED OVER TO TURKEY YET AND LITTLE OF THE

MONEY ALREADY PAID HAS FILTERED DOWN TO THE TURKISH FARMERS THEMSELVES.

FOLLOWING OUR CONFERENCES WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS, WE WERE ASSURED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SPRING PLANTING OF

POPPIES THIS YEAR. BUT TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT. SEEDS ARE BEING GERMINATED ON GOVERNMENT FARMS FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE FUTURE, AND A FALL PLANTING IS STILL A DANGEROUS REALITY. IF ACTION DOES NOT SOON TAKE PLACE, THE INSIDIOUS "FRENCH CONNECTION" WILL BE BACK IN FULL SWING, AND ADDICTION WILL AGAIN SKYROCKET IN ALL THE HARLEMS OF AMERICA.

THE TRUTH IS THAT WE ARE ON A CONFRONTATION PATH WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. THAT GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, OUSTING THE MILITARY REGIME WHICH ORIGINALLY IMPOSED THE BAN. THIS NEW GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF RURAL AREAS AND IT FEELS A COMMITMENT TO HELP THE FARMERS BY ALLOWING POPPY PRODUCTION.

THE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS CONFRONTATION HAS GROWN DUE TO STATE DEPARTMENT BUNGLING. UNTIL A WEEK BEFORE OUR DEPARTURE, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND I WERE ASSURED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT RUMORS OF AN END TO THE BAN WERE SIMPLY RUMORS, NOTHING MORE. THAT WAS NOT TRUE. WE WERE ALLOWED TO BELIEVE THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF A SHIFT IN TURKISH POLICY WERE MERELY CAMPAIGN RHETORIC. THAT WAS NOT TRUE. WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING LIFTING THE OPIUM POPPY BAN. THAT, TOO, WAS NOT TRUE. THIS MISINFORMATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT--THE VERY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS--IS JEOPARDIZING THE CHANCE OF SUCCESSFULLY RENEGOTIATING THE AMERICAN AGREEMENT TO COMPENSATE TURKEY FOR ENDING POPPY CULTIVATION.

TO FURTHER COMPLICATE THIS DELICATE SITUATION, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES WITH VISIONS OF HIGHER PROFITS

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HAVE VISITED TURKEY SEEKING AN END TO THE BAN. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, INDIA IS PRODUCING LEGAL OPIUM FOR PHARMACEUTICAL USE UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. THERE IS NO VALID MEDICAL NEED FOR TURKISH OPIUM.

WE ARE REQUESTING MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DISCUSS THIS MOST URGENT PROBLEM.

PERSONAL DIPLOMACY BY SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY BE NEEDED
TO INSURE THAT TURKEY DOES NOT RESUME PRODUCTION OF THIS
DEADLY CROP.

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE AMOUNT OF FOREIGN AID WHICH TURKEY

RECEIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND IN VIEW OF THE RE-
REQUIREMENT THAT AID BE CUT OFF TO COUNTRIES WHICH DO
NOT ADEQUATELY FIGHT DRUG TRAFFIC, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS
IN THE BEST INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THE
BAN ON OPIUM POPPIES. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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